

Listing of Claims

1-55. Cancelled

56. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

selecting a child class from a class hierarchy, wherein

the class hierarchy comprises

the child class, and

a parent class,

the parent class and the child class are associated with one another,

the child class is configured to inherit an attribute of the parent class,

the child class comprises one or more associated attributes,

the one or more associated attributes comprise the attribute,

the one or more associated attributes are configured to describe an item,

the selecting the child class is based on the one or more associated attributes,

the selecting the child class is performed such that each of the one or more

associated attributes has a non-null value to describe the item,

the attribute has a first domain associated with the parent class and a second

domain associated with the child class, and

the second domain is more restrictive than the first domain;

associating [[an]] **the** item with [[a]] **the child** class, wherein

the class comprises associated attributes that describe

the attribute describes one or more members of the **child** class,

the associating comprises determining a class in a hierarchy,

the determining is based on associated attributes

the one or more associated attributes are necessary to describe the item, **and**

the **one or more** associated attributes are associated with the **child** class in the

class hierarchy[[, and]]

the associating the item comprises selecting the class such that each

associated attribute has a non-null value in describing the item;

storing a first record associating